export and import of all hazardous wastes. The processes generating hazardous wastes are listed in schedule 1 of these rules. The residues and wastes generated from the operations in electronic industry are considered as hazardous wastes and are listed at Sl. No. 31 of schedule 1 of these rules. Further, as per the provisions of these rules Electrical and Electronics Assemblies are covered under Category B-1110 in Schedule 3 of these rules which are applicable for import and export of hazardous wastes. The import of wastes under this category are only permitted for direct reuse and not for recycling or final disposal. Further, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has undertaken a study for the preparation of a "Guideline Document for Environmentally Sound Recycling of E-Waste" for the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of the Union Territories as well as the industries, through an expert agency having experience in this field.

Crack in Gangotri Glacier

†3085. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big crack has been sighted in Gangotri Glacier which is the place of origin of River Ganges;

(b) If so, whether it has been proved that Himalayan glaciers have started melting due to global warming;

(c) If so, whether it would pose a threat of water shortage in rivers such as Ganges, Indus and Brahmaputra after some years; and

(d) If, so what steps are being taken by Government to face this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Crack observed in Gangotri Glacier near the originating place of the Ganga River is not a new observation. It had been observed in Aerial Photographs of October 1960 and1962. The origin of these cracks can be attributed to the neo tectonics activity. Such cracks are not conclusive evidence of melting of glaciers due to global warming.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As for the phenomenon of global warming resulting in melting of glaciers, the scientific studies have revealed that glaciers of Himalayan region are passing through a phase of recession (shrinking) as is the case with the glaciers elsewhere in the world at variable rates due to a variety of reasons like macro and micro climate, reduction in snow fall, and size of glaciers. Cracks in a glacier are developed due to stress build up within a glacier.

(c) The scientific studies do not suggest threat of water shortage in the rivers in the foreseeable future.

(d) Since the recession of glaciers is a natural process and is not attributable to any one meteorological parameter, the components of mitigation strategy comprise monitoring of the glaciers, expansion and diversification of the meteorological observation network, reduction in deforestation, and preservation of ecology in high altitudes. The G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) has been conducting studies on Gangotri glacier systems for the last seven years, which do not indicate significant melt water discharge. The State Government of Uttaranchal has set up an Expert Committee for glacier conservation measures.

Environmental impact Assessment notification

3086. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental groups and activists have sought scrapping the draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the environmental groups and activists have demanded another round of consultation with all concerned; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In response to the public notice issued on 15th September, 2005 inviting responses from the public at large on the Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, nearly 50 NGO's and individuals had furnished their views. Prior to issue of the public notice of 15th September, 2005 formal consultations had also been held with NGOs' industry associations,